

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **February 11, 2003**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2

CONSENT: **X**

REGULAR:

CLOSED SESSION:

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

(Confidential)

ITEM TITLE: **Cable TV Price Regulation**

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution to obtain the support of the State's Senators in evaluating the effectiveness of current cable television price regulation.

SUMMARY:

As a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and other federal regulation, localities are prohibited from regulating prices for cable television service, except for the most basic level of service (which is referred to as "Broadcast" service by Adelphia).

Since federal deregulation, price increases have been implemented at a rate that has exceeded the rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index. This is a trend occurring nationally, as well as locally. As noted by many consumer groups, cable prices nationally have risen about 45 percent since 1996, about three times the rate of inflation.

PRIOR ACTION(S):

January 28, 2003 Agenda Item #5: City Council reviewed and discussed Adelphia's proposed price increases to take effect in February, 2003.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

CONTACT(S):

Mike Goetz, Director – Information Technology, 847-1341 x286

ATTACHMENT(S): Proposed resolution

REVIEWED BY: lkp

BE IT RESOLVED That the Lynchburg City Council does hereby request that Virginia's State Senators, the Honorable Sen. John W. Warner and the Honorable Sen. George F. Allen, support all efforts by the Senate Commerce Committee, and any other efforts undertaken by Congress, to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of federal regulation in ensuring competitive and affordable prices for cable television service.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

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